

Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natchez Trace Parkway
Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee

129.2°N 19



Double Arch Bridge, milepost 438

Along the Natchez Trace Parkway, stories of the Old Southwest await discovery on a streamside trail, in a historic stand, or just around a bend in the road.

The Natchez Trace Parkway leads you 444 miles through three states and 10,000 years of history. Established as a unit of the National Park System in 1938 and officially completed in 2005, the Parkway commemorates the most significant highway of the Old Southwest.

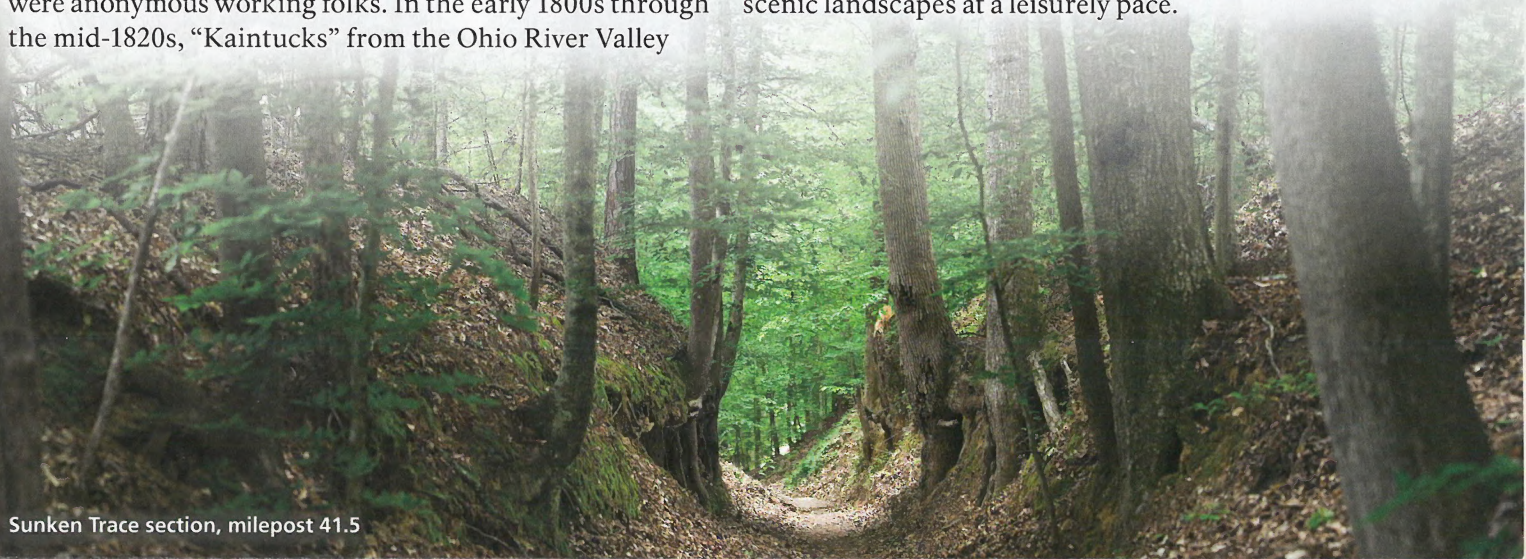
The natural travel corridor that became the Natchez Trace dates back many centuries. It bisected the traditional homelands of the Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations. As the United States expanded westward in the late 1700s and early 1800s, growing numbers of travelers tramped the rough trail into a clearly marked path. Where the ground was relatively soft, walkers, riders, and wagons wore down the "sunken" sections you see today. In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson designated the Trace a national post road for mail delivery between Nashville and Natchez.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, Meriwether Lewis (who died on the Trace in 1809), John James Audubon, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant are some of the famous Americans to have traveled the Natchez Trace. Most travelers, though, were anonymous working folks. In the early 1800s through the mid-1820s, "Kaintucks" from the Ohio River Valley

floated cash crops, livestock, and other materials down the Mississippi River on wooden flatboats. At Natchez or New Orleans, they sold their goods, sold their boats for lumber, and walked or rode horseback toward home via the Old Trace. As the road was improved, stands (inns) provided lodging, food, and drink to Trace travelers.

Today the Natchez Trace Parkway creates a greenway from the southern Appalachian foothills of Tennessee to the bluffs of the lower Mississippi River. Along the way are sites like Emerald Mound, a national historic landmark and one of the largest American Indian mounds in the United States, and Mount Locust, one of only two surviving stands from the old traveling days.

The Trace also crosses four distinct ecosystems and eight major watersheds. It is habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants, 33 mammal species, 134 bird species, and 70 species of reptiles and amphibians. Also designated a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road, the Parkway is the ideal route for modern travelers to experience historic and scenic landscapes at a leisurely pace.

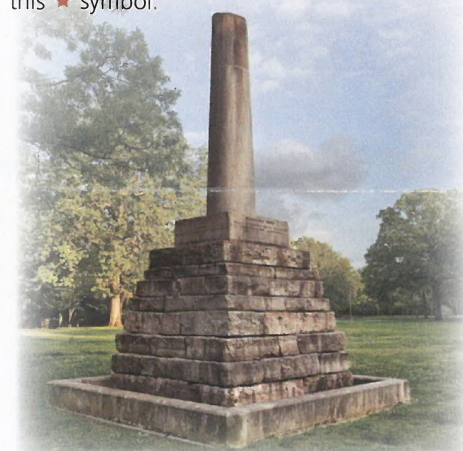


Sunken Trace section, milepost 41.5

PARKWAY HIGHLIGHTS IN TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA MP 444.0–308.9

Roll with the ups and downs of hill country, cross the Double Arch Bridge, visit the grave of Meriwether Lewis.

Mileposts are on the parkway's east side. The milepost numbering system begins at the southern terminus in Natchez, MS, milepost 0. The northern terminus, milepost 444, is near Nashville, TN. Points of interest and visitor services are noted below to the nearest tenth of a mile. On the map (*other side of this brochure*) mileposts are noted every five miles and labeled in pink every 10 miles. Some side roads are not accessible to RVs or low-clearance vehicles. "NST" denotes a trailhead for the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. "Don't Miss" sites are highlighted with this ★ symbol.



Meriwether Lewis Monument, milepost 385.9

444.0 Northern Terminus At TN Hwy. 100.

★ **438.0 Birdsong Hollow** This Double Arch Bridge over TN Hwy. 96 won the 1995 Presidential Award for Design Excellence.

427.6 Garrison Creek Named for a nearby 1801–02 US Army post. Picnic area, NST.

426.3 War of 1812 Memorial/Old Trace During this war, soldiers marched to and from battle along the Old Natchez Trace. NST.

425.4 Burns Branch Picnic area, NST.

423.9 Tennessee Valley Divide 1796 boundary between new state of Tennessee and Chickasaw Nation to south. NST.

411.8 Water Valley Overlook Scenic view.

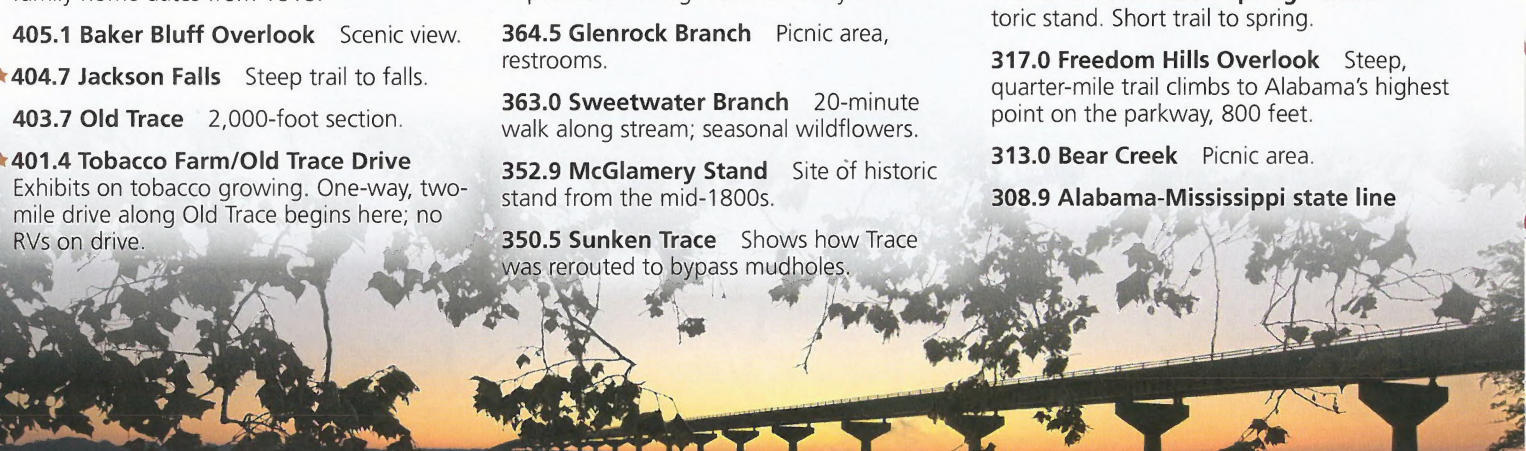
★ **407.7 Gordon House Historic Site** Site of early 1800s trading post and ferry. Gordon family home dates from 1818.

405.1 Baker Bluff Overlook Scenic view.

★ **404.7 Jackson Falls** Steep trail to falls.

403.7 Old Trace 2,000-foot section.

★ **401.4 Tobacco Farm/Old Trace Drive** Exhibits on tobacco growing. One-way, two-mile drive along Old Trace begins here; no RVs on drive.



John Coffee Memorial Bridge, milepost 328.6–327.8

PARKWAY HIGHLIGHTS IN MISSISSIPPI MP 308.9–0.0

See ancient burial mounds, walk through a cypress swamp, tour the historic Mount Locust stand.

308.8 Bear Creek Mound. Ceremonial structure built between 1400 and 1600.

308.4 Cave Spring Natural cave, probably used by American Indians for water and stone.

304.5 Tishomingo State Park Access road.

293.4 Bay Springs Lake Access road.

293.2 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Jamie L. Whitten Bridge The waterway opens a navigable route between the Gulf of Mexico and Tennessee River.

★ **286.7 Pharr Mounds** Eight burial mounds built 1,800 to 2,000 years ago. Restrooms.

286.3 Browns Bottom Fishing, picnic area.

283.3 Donivan Slough Short walk through habitat influenced by occasional flooding.

278.4 Twentymile Bottom Overlook View of Old Trace crossing. No RVs.

275.2 Dogwood Valley Short walk among dogwood trees.

★ **269.4 Confederate Gravesites and Old Trace** Short walk to graves of 13 unidentified Confederate soldiers.

★ **266.0 Parkway Visitor Center and Headquarters** Information, exhibits, film, restrooms, bike-only campground, NST.

263.9 Old Town Overlook Views of Old Town Creek and its floodplain. NST.

★ **261.8 Chickasaw Village Site** Exhibits on Chickasaw village that stood here. NST.

259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield The 1864 battlefield is a mile east on MS Hwy. 6 (Main St.).

251.9 Black Belt Overlook Named for a once-vast prairie with rich, black soil.

251.1 Chickasaw Council House Site of Pontatok, Chickasaw Nation capital in the 1820s. Picnic area.

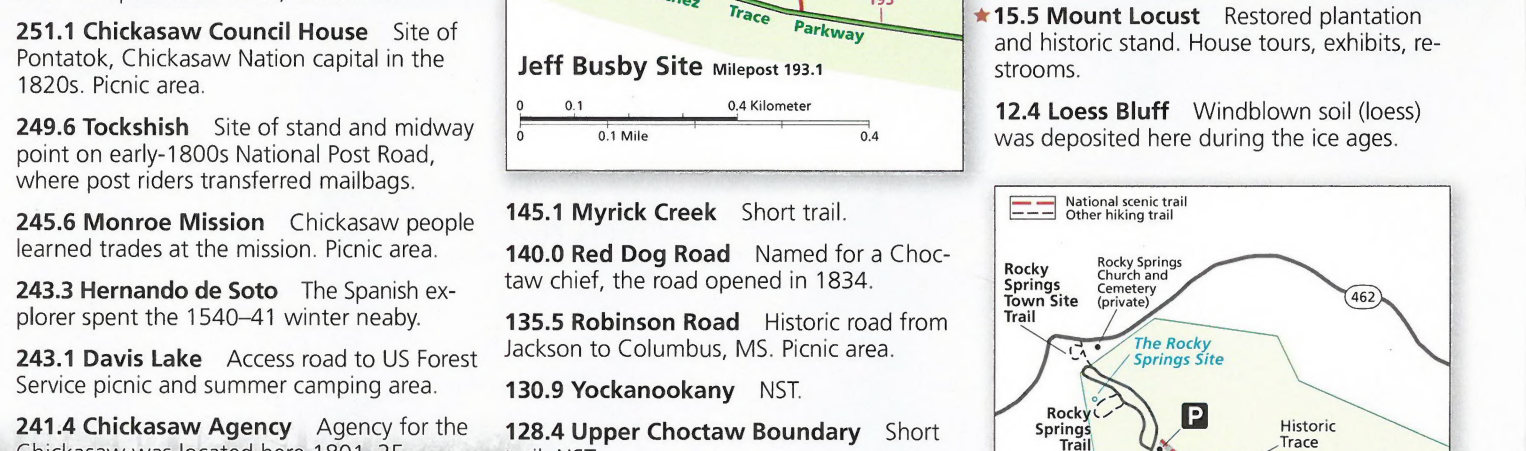
249.6 Tockshish Site of stand and midway point on early-1800s National Post Road, where post riders transferred mailbags.

245.6 Monroe Mission Chickasaw people learned trades at the mission. Picnic area.

243.3 Hernando de Soto The Spanish explorer spent the 1540–41 winter nearby.

243.1 Davis Lake Access road to US Forest Service picnic and summer camping area.

241.4 Chickasaw Agency Agency for the Chickasaw was located here 1801–25.



Cypress Swamp, milepost 122.0

233.2 Witch Dance Horse trail access, bike-only campground, picnic area, restrooms.

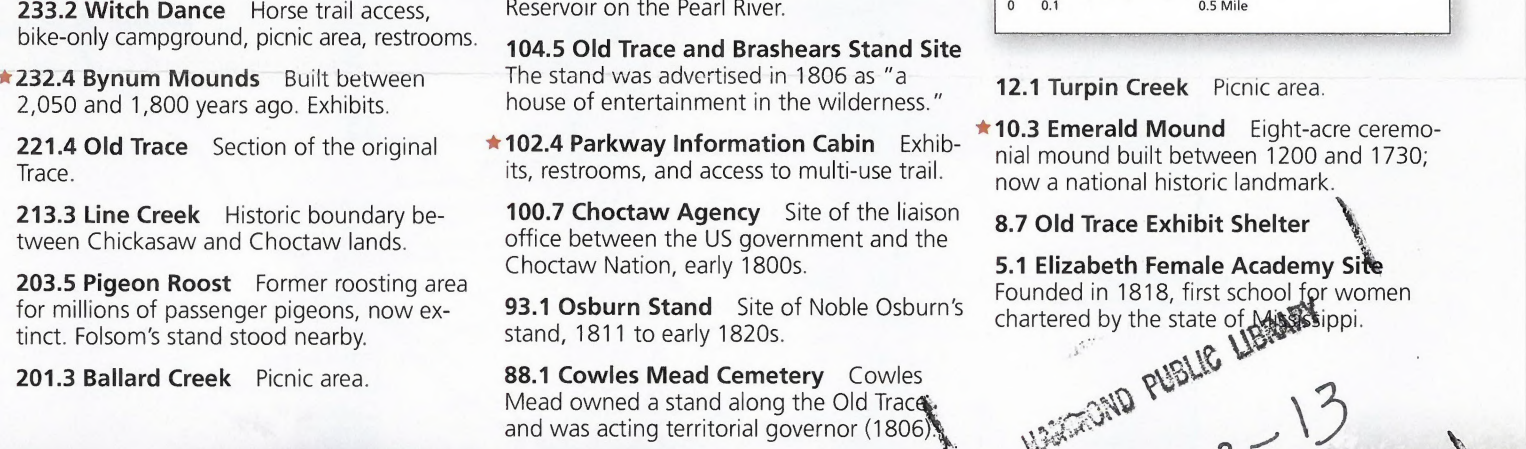
★ **232.4 Bynum Mounds** Built between 2,050 and 1,800 years ago. Exhibits.

221.4 Old Trace Section of the original Trace.

213.3 Line Creek Historic boundary between Chickasaw and Choctaw lands.

203.5 Pigeon Roost Former roosting area for millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct. Folsom's stand stood nearby.

201.3 Ballard Creek Picnic area.



Emerald Mound, milepost 10.3

MORE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR VISIT

Accommodations and Services

There are no motels or gas stations on the parkway. Nearby communities have lodging, restaurants, gas stations, medical care, and other services.

Camping

All campgrounds are first-come, first-served. No reservations are accepted. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days and 30 days park-wide per calendar year. Campgrounds have restrooms, but no hookups or showers. Bike-only primitive campgrounds have tent sites, picnic tables, and grills. For details about camping, check the park website.

Accessibility

We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

For a Safe Visit

• Obey posted speed limits. Watch for animals on the parkway. • Avoid fatigue; stop often to refresh. • Special hauling restrictions apply. Commercial vehicles and trucks over one-ton-rated capacity are prohibited. • Hunting is prohibited.

For firearms regulations, check the park website. • Tent and trailer camping are permitted only at designated campgrounds. • Build fires only in the fire rings provided. • Fire ants can inflict painful bites; do not disturb their mounds. • Do not touch poison ivy leaves, roots, or vines. • Be alert for copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes; don't put your hands or feet in places you can't see.

• Natchez Trace Parkway is a designated bike route. Allow at least three feet when passing cyclists. • All natural, historical, and archeological objects are protected by federal law.

Contact Us:

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www.nps.gov/natr
Natchez Trace Parkway
www.nps.gov/natt

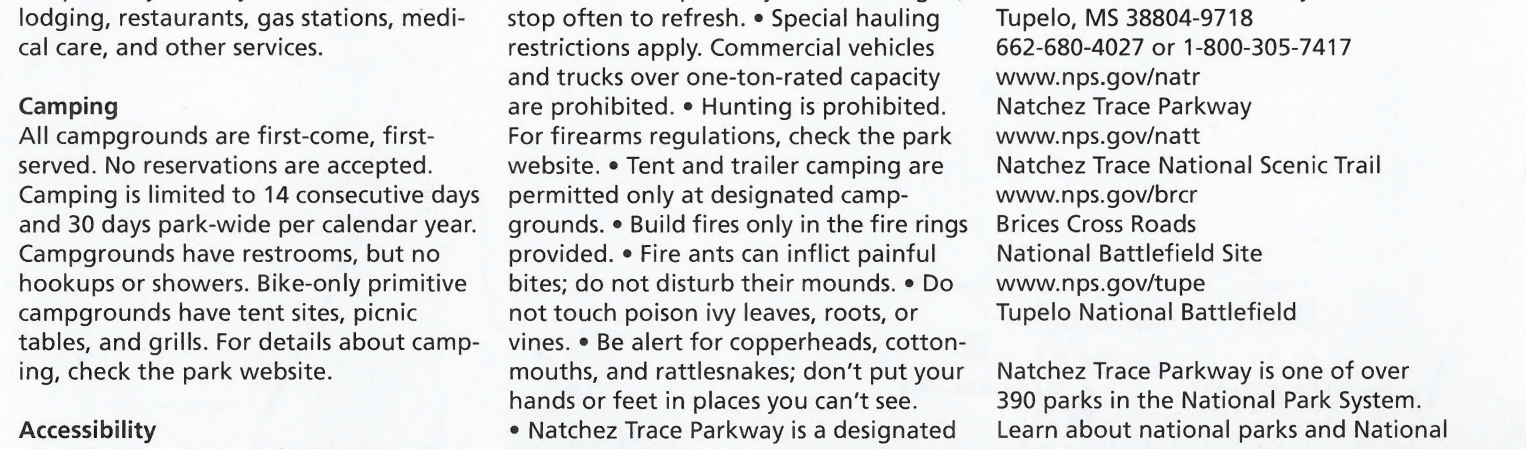
Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail
www.nps.gov/bncc
Brices Cross Roads
National Battlefield Site
www.nps.gov/tupe

Natchez Trace National Battlefield

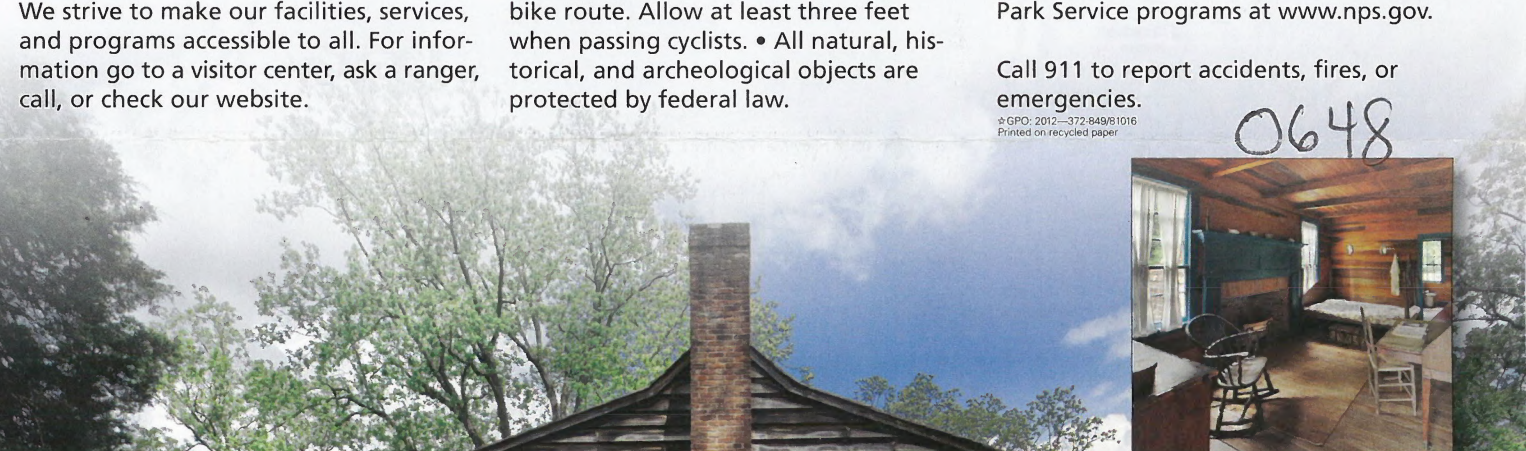
Natchez Trace Parkway is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. Learn about national parks and National Park Service programs at www.nps.gov.

Call 911 to report accidents, fires, or emergencies.

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Mount Locust, milepost 15.5



Mount Locust, milepost 15.5

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